Dear Harold:

Shortly after sending you the order for Whitewash II, I contacted Sylvia Meagher. I am now living at The University Club in New York and have access to theirs 26 volumes in their library. After wasting some time trying to find things, I decided I needed Mrs Meaghers Index. I called her to find out where to obtain a copy and this led to our getting together for lunch.

As a result of that conversation, I offered to help her or any of the current researchers including yourself in any way I could. Being in New York might have some advantages and since I'm now living alone, I have some time available which I had not previously had.

As a result of this offer, Mrs Meagher invited me to attend the Barry Gray show last night, during which she discussed the new Capitol record on the assassination with Mr Shiller who produced it, and three other anti-conspiracy men, including Henry J. Taylor. It was awful. She was so hopelessly outnumbered she could do little to defend the position of the researchers, including you. Shiller quoted you once out of context and Henry Taylor responded by saying he'd never heard of you.

He's never read any of the books

by researchers, nor has he read the Report or any of the 26 volumes. I guess one shouldn't be surprised at this, since Robert Kennedy hasn't either. I do get upset over well meaning members of the Press, Radio and TV and magazines who make supposedly learned comments without having examined the evidence objectively.

Sylvia told me you were going to try to tune in Barry Gray on the second evening. I hope you were able to in spite of the fact that the whole two evening episode made me want to throw up.

I have been trying to do something constructive now that I have more time. I started with your ~~for~~ analysis of the Altgens photograph and the Willis photo, to see if I could prove that the JFK car was behind the oak tree when the photos were taken. The Secret Service re-enactment photos taken on Dec 5, 1963 are very interesting (Exh 875 I believe) They show the position of a test car from the sixth floor window with respect to the white lines. It seems unlikely that those lines had been repainted or moved by Dec 5, 1963, whereas they might have been by the time of the FBI-Commission re-enactment.

Do you know whether those lines were changed then, or as of now?

I'm afraid I have some disappointing news for you. Assuming the white lines were not changed up to May 1964, the line next to the front wheel of JFK's car in Altgens' photo appears to be the fifth; not the fourth, line from the corner of Elm & Houston.

There is a white line hidden under the JFK secret service follow up car in the Altgens photo. You can tell this by looking at the FBI Re-enactment picture of the Altgens photo. The fourth white line shows in the re-enactment picture in the exact position which would place it under the secret service car.

This also checks with Altgens' position and a line drawn on the large surveyors' map of the area (Exhibit 883), between Altgens' position and the line of sight in his photo, passes over the fifth white line rather than the fourth. I have been able to place Altgens on the map because he shows up in the Nix film as well as the Zapruder film. The Zapruder shot of him has no reference point in the background, but the Nix shot of him can be lined up with the steps across Elm St.

However, in spite of this disappointme

there is still the Willis picture, which you have shown in Whitewash II, demonstrates without any doubt, that the JFK car was behind the tree, or had not even reached the tree, at the time of the first shot.

I obtained the large (about 24" x 40") original of the surveyors' plat, and am now in the process of spotting all photographer on it and the positions of the JFK car at all frames of Zapruder and the shots taken by Willis, Altgens, Nix & Muchmore. I'm showing on it where the car was behind the oak tree, where the fatal shot hit, where Connally was probably hit, where the first shot probably was fired etc.

I'd like also to spot on it positions of other photographers such as those in the Wolper film you found in the Archives. Can you tell me whether the Wolper movie can be borrowed or purchased?

Have you done any of this already? If so, perhaps I should not spend the time duplicating your efforts and should concentrate on something else which would assist you in your efforts. I have no interest in publishing anything, and would just as soon turn over my results to you for incorporation in Whitewash III or IV.

Sylvia's book is already too far along

To use much of whatever I might do. She has suggested I write to you and offer cooperation.

Can you tell me what other "still" photographers have pictures in the Archives or elsewhere that were not used by the Commission?

I have already noted the Betzner photo and the T.V. footage you mentioned in Whitewash II. How can we get our hands on them?

I have called Wolper Productions in New York to see if I can beg, borrow, buy or steal the JFK film. So far, they don't seem to know about it, although they promised to look into it.

If I can be of any assistance or if you would be interested in anything I might turn up in New York please let me know.

Sincerely,
Dick Sprague

P.S. It gives me great pleasure to be working with the 26 volumes at the University Club. They were donated by one of the members, Mr. John J. McCloy.